

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LUANDA 01107 121113Z

12

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 SCCT-01 OPR-02 SY-05

A-01 SAM-01 IO-10 DPW-01 /085 W

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O R 110917Z AUG 75

FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3958

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

CINCLANT NORFOLK VA

CINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUANDA 1107

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PINS MILI AO

SUBJECT: ROUNDUP AUGUST 10

1. I TALKED WITH THE ACTING HIGH COMMISSIONER THE MORNING OF AUGUST 10. HE WAS AT THAT MOMENT TAKING A BREAK FROM A MEETING WITH THE FNLA MILITARY COMMANDERS ON THE SUBJECT OF THEIR WITHDRAWAL FROM THE SAO PEDRO DA BARRA FORTRESS. THE GENERAL HAD EXPLAINED TO THEM THAT THEY HAD TO GO IN THE INTERESTS OF THE ECONOMY AND THE RESTORATION OF SOME SEMBLANCE OF ORDER HE HAD NOT THREATENED THEM WITH FORCIBLE REMOVAL, BUT THEY SEEMED TO UNDERSTAND THAT THE PORTUGUESE WERE PREPARED TO TAKE STRONG MEASURES IF THEY DID NOT LEAVE VOLUNTARILY. THE NUMBERS INVOLVED IN THE EVACUATION OF THE FORT ARE OPEN TO QUESTION. THE MOST WIDELY ACCEPTED FIGURE IS 600. YET, ONE SOURCE CLOSE TO THE FNLA HAS TOLD ME THAT THERE ARE THIRTEEN WHITES AND TWO BLACKS IN THE FORT. OTHERS, WHO DO NOT MENTION
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PAGE 02 LUANDA 01107 121113Z

A FIGURE, SAY THE FORT IS PACKED. A SMALL NUMBER WOULD

SEEM TO BE INDICATED BY THE SMALL AMOUNTS OF SUPPLIES REQUIRED BY THE DEFENDERS. THE FORT HAS A LARGE WATER CISTERN AND A FEW PEOPLE WOULD BE ABLE TO SURVIVE FOR LONG PERIODS OF TIME.

2. MEANWHILE, THE FNLA TROOPS IN THE SANEAMENTO NEIGHBORHOOD HAVE BEEN EVACUATED TO THE NAVAL BASE AND THE GRAFENIL BASE, WHERE THE FNLA MEMBERS OF THE INTEGRATED FORCES ARE LOCATED, AND WILL BE FLOWN TO AMBRIZ. AN FNLA SOURCE TOLD ME AT LEAST ONE OR TWO MINISTERS WILL REMAIN IN LUANDA, WHILE ANOTHER SOURCE CLAIMS ALL WILL LEAVE NOW AND COME BACK PERIODICALLY IN ORDER NOT TO GIVE THE MBLZ THE OPPORTUNITY TO SAY FNLA HAS ABANDONED THE GOVERNMENT.

3. IN THE WAKE OF THE FIGHTING BETWEEN MPLA AND FNLA IN THE SANEAMENTO NEIGHBORHOOD IN LUANDA, MPLA ISSUED A COMMUNIQUE ON AUGUST 9 WHICH SAYS THAT FNLA TROOPS HAD BEEN GATHERING IN SANEAMENTO FROM ALL OVER THE CITY AND CONVERTING THE AREA INTO A GARRISON. MEANWHILE, MPLA MAINTAINED A FEW TROOPS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD. MPLA COMRADES WERE THE SUBJECT OF CONTANT ABUSE BY FNLA; THEY WERE THREATENED AND UPON OCCASION ARRESTED BY THESE FOREIGNERS. MPLA TRIED EVERYTHING TO RESOLVE THE SITUATION PEACEFULLY, BUT TO NO AVAIL. THEN ON THE NIGHT OF AUGUST 8, FNLA AND ITS MERCENARIES THREW THEMSELVES ON THE NEIGHBORHOOD, HUNDREDS OF THEM, AND THEY SACKED AND DESTROYED THE HOME OF LOPO DE NASVIMENTO, IN WHICH COMRADE AGOSTINHO NETO LIVED UP UNTIL A SHORT TIME AGO, AND HOME OF INFORMATION MINISTER RUI MONTEIRO. MPLA ASKS THAT THE FNLA ELEMENTS IN SANEAMENTO AND THE SAO PEDRO DA BARRA FORTRESS BE EVACUATED. IF THIS REQUEST IS NOT COMPLIED WITH IN A REASONABLE TIME, MPLA WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CONSEQUENCES.

4. THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS HAS NOW THREE MEDICAL TEAMS IN ANGOLA - ONE IN CARMONA, ANOTHER IN NOVA LISBOA, AND A THIRD IN LUANDA, WHICH HAS NOT YET STARTED TO WORK. RED CROSS OFFICIALS HERE ARE DISCUSSING WITH THE MPLA HOW AND WHERE THE TEAM IS TO FUNCTION. THE RED CROSS CONTINUES WITH ITS RELIEF PROGRAM OF DISTRIBUTING BLANKETS AND POWDERED MILK AND HAS NOW STARTED UP A TRACING AGENCY. LOCAL RED CROSS CHAPTERS SEND IN NAMES OF HEADS OF FAMILIES WHO HAVE TURNED UP IN NOVA LISBOA AND THESE ARE SENT AROUND AND POSTED IN RED CROSS OFFICES. MESSAGES ARE THEN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LUANDA 01107 121113Z

CARRIED TO NOVA LISBOA BY PLANE. THE RED CROSS REP HERE HAS ASKED GENEVA FOR A PLANE BECAUSE IT IS VERY DIFFICULT TO FUNCTION WITH CHARTERED AIRCRAFT. IF POSSIBLE, THE RED CROSS WANTS TO BEGIN A PROGRAM OF VISITING PRISONERS.

5. UNSPECIFIED INCIDENTS WERE REPORTED FROM NOVA LISBOA AND THE UNITA CONVOY THAT LEFT LUANDA ON AUGUST 8 WAS REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN STOPPED AT CELA, PRESUMABLY BY MPLA. ABOUT 200 TROOPS AND OFFICIALS

ARE SAID TO BE IN THE COLUMN.
KILLORAN

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